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1444

A LETTER

Sent from a

GENTLEMAN

TO

Mr. HENRY MARTIN *Esquire*, a Member of the House of Commons, from Worcester this 19. of *Octob.* 1642.

Who was imployed by his Exellence to deliver a Letter to the Earle of *Dorset*, with the *Votes* of both *Houses* of *Parliament* concerning a *Petition* to be delivered to his *Majestie*.

SHEWING

The desperate Resolution of the *Cavalliers*, who sweare they will neither give nor take Quarter.

Ordered by the *Commons* that this Letter be forthwith printed and published.

Hen: Elsing Celric. Parl. D. Com.

LONDON,
Printed by *L. Norton*, for *E, Husbands* and *John Frank*, and are to be sold next dere unto the *Kings Head* in *Fleetstreete*.
Anno Dom. MDCXLII.

UMI

A LETTER

GENTLEMAN

TO

Mr. HENRY MARTIN

Member of the House of Commons

A LETTER Sent from a GENTLEMAN TO Mr. HENRY PERKINS *Esquire*, a Member of the House of Commons from Worcester this 19, of *Octob.* 1642.

Honoured Sir,

I Received commands to present from his Excellence a letter to the Earle of *Dorset* at Court, which was then sayd to be at *Sturbridge*, fifteene miles hence, with the votes of both Houses of Parliament concerning a Petition to bee delivered to his Majesty, whither repairing on Sunday last, I found there many of the Cavalliers who command their horse: upon my comming thither, I caused the Trumpet sent with me to sound thrice, but finding no guard, I advanced into the Towne, and demanded of such ragged people as I found

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there for an officer to convay me to Prince *Robert*, and I told them I had a meſſage to deliver to him from his Excellence, of which thoſe kinde of people not taking notice, I went further into the Towne, and called to a Gentleman deſiring him I might bee brought to the place where the Prince was, which the Gentleman (who I after found was the Lord *Caſſ*) directed me to, upon my approach thither, I alighted with the Trumpet, and demanded to ſpeake with the Prince, but before I could be admitted to him, I was by Commiſſary *Wilmot* conveyed to his owne chamber and being asked if I had letters, I replied I had, and told him to whom, and upon what occaſion the letters he willed me to deliver to him, and tartly ſayd he muſt have thoſe I had, whereupon I delivered the letter to him which was ſealed, he then left me in the cuſtody of an officer or two, who uſed me fairely, and ſtayed with me in the chamber till his returne, which was ſhortly, and then tooke me with him to the Prince, to whom in preſence of Generall *Ruthen*, and Commiſſary *Wilmot*, I declared the meſſage I had in charge, to which his Highneſſe gave a faire anſwere, but withall told me I was by the law of Armes a priſoner, for that I came into the town without leave procured by a Trumpet, and brought letters through the Army which was ſealed: I told his Highneſſe, for the firſt, I conceived I had not broken the law of Armes, for that the Trumpet ſounded thrice, there was no court of guard, or other watch kept about the towne, neither would any take cogniſance of my buſines with the Prince, (though I intreated it of divers) till I was in the towne, which gave me cauſe to believe his Highnes was not there. For the ſecond it was buſineſſe from the Parliament, therefore not unfit to be ſealed, the rather for that the like courſe had within few dates been held before

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in the very same busineſſe, and it found acceptation which presidented this; the answere not satisfying under the name of an officer to keepe me company, I was returned to Commissary *Wilmots* chamber, where I was entertained with convenient respect, though no way sutable to the busineſſe of that day: the Trumpet was put into a chamber close by, and there they indeavoured to seduce him from his service, to become a Trumpet to the King, from about eleven a clock in the forenoone, till one next morning I was kept in the chamber, a strong court of Guard being set at the streete doore of the house where I lay, there came severall officers to me, and tooke liberty to speake of his Excellence, most of the Lords here, and both Houses of Parliament in most high and approbious language, of these the prime were Major *Oneale*, Major *Hutchison*, Mr. *William Murry*, Capiaine *Chapman*, Captaine *Mountaine*, and some others: after supper Commissarie *Wilmot* came to me with Colloneſl *Hastings*, Sir *Thomas Byron* newly knighted, he commands Prince *Charles* his Troop, Mr *William Murry*, Mr. *Dudly Smith*, and a Scotch commander, who I remember not, they fell upon mee with high discourse, and told me I was the greateſt enemy the King had in these parts of the country where I lived, which I would in time know the King was sensible off: and they wondred I durst come thither, that and my being an officer of the Army considered (both which rendred me a man regardleſſe either of the Kings power and favour) I told them I was as good a subject as the best of them, I wisht better to, and praied more for, and would much more truely serve his Majesty then the best of them which upon all occasions I would be ready to make good, for my comming thither, it was not as an officer, nor as a man relating to the Army, but as a messenger sent to the

Earle of *Dorſet*, in the buſineſſe of the Parliament, for my boldneſſe, if it were any to come ſo ſent, it was God and my innocency which encouraged and would protect me againſt whomſoever: they told me they admired (ſome things conſidered which they pretended I was indued with,) I ſhould be ſo blinded to appeare in ſuch a buſineſſe againſt my King, and act the part of a traitor as all my partakers did: I deſired they would forbear ſuch language, and replyed upon them in ſhort, that I had done nothing but what my iudgement and conſcience had dictated to me, and that upon ſuch mature deliberation with my owne thoughts, and conference with others of approved judgements, that by the helpe of God I would ſtand or fall to the way I had engaged for, which was ſo farre from treaſon, or a thought of ill to his Majeſty in me or any elſe whoſe way I went, that I feared not all the ruine of our oppreſſors, which if done, his Majeſty would clearly ſee his own miſtake, both of them and us, and ſuch of them as ſcaped the ſword, hee would referre to juſtice, that it might appeare wherein hee erred and misbelieved of us, was through them, but I intreated wee might not talke any more of that buſineſſe, it being a point too tender: whereupon they fell to other diſcourſe, told me what great things they had done at *Worceſter* the 23. of *September* laſt, and there ſlaine hundreds of our men and converted (as they called it) Colon. *Sands* both which I anſwered according to what I ſaw and knew. Firſt, Collonell had declared fully his heart and words, hee then ſpoke to the world; and ſecondly, there was but twenty five ſlaine on both ſides, which lay upon the place, Major *Douglas*, and a Cornet of theirs, the Lord *Beamonds* brother dyed within a day or two after, and foure of their part, one whereof they buried, and carried three with them

them dead, and a third part of the twenty five men slaine upon the place was theirs, and the hurt men were neere upon as of theirs as ours; some of them more ingenuous then the rest confessed the death of the last foure, but wondered how it was knowne. I told them the Major of *Worster* discovered, that though he was so much theirs, he forgot to shew himselfe a Christian or a man, they replied, all men were false they thought; but now they had taken a good course with those about the King; for they had lockt up his Majesties eares and tongue from the Lords at Court, who they say said were both treacherous and cowardly, as the L. *Dorset* and others, and they swore [with their ancient boldnes and untruth] that the Lord *Dorset* and others of them about his Majesty did discover and betray the Kings intensions to our side, but now of late hee had learnt to keepe his Councels from them: I told them they had forgot to speake of their valour at *Southam* and *Manchester*; to the first, they swore hard they lost but three men; to the second, one of them answered who had beene upon that service, that they had lost more there then at all other places; but they laid the fault upon the Earle of *Darby*, who they said was both a foole and a Coward; and swore hartily they hoped hee would never come up to them.

From this Discourse they passed on to ieere and revile our Lords as well in *Parliament* as here our Officers in the Army (I cannot forget those base speeches they spoke against the Earle of *Holland*, though I abhor to write them in particular) which was answered as it came, and returned with what sharpnesse my owne weaknesse and the present condition I was in would admit of. When each man had spent his powder, and had his Bout at me, and received his answer, I had my dispatch from Commissary

military *Writer* (who talked as if he had Commission for it) with an answere to the Letter I brought (the Prince being rather willing to send it to the Court, then trouble me with the carriage of it) and the next morning I had leave with a respective Farewell to depart till our next meeting, which I hope will be about *Dunsmore Heath*, and not long too. In the interim I thought fit to offer these to your view, if happily any advantage may come to the Cause hereby, I wholly leave it to the wisdome of your selfe and those to whom you shall think to impart them, whether you make them publique or no, the truth of them I will make good when I shall be called, and will ever rest;

Worster, Octob. 9. *Your most humble servant;*

1642.

LIONEL COPLEY.